

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2618

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FROM MAESTRONE

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, XI, XG

SUBJECT: NEAR EAST MARKETS FOR U.S. WEST COAST LUMBER AND  
FLYWOOD- EGYPT.

REF: STATE 39568

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED EGYPTIAN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR WOOD  
PRODUCTS WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND IMPORTERS.  
THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT LOCAL PRODUCTION OF LUMBER. CLASSIFICA-  
TIONS USED BY EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES FOR STATISTICS AND IMPORT  
REQUIREMENTS DO NOT CORRESPOND WITH TERMINOLOGY IN PARA 1 REFTTEL.  
FOLLOWING TABLE PREPARED ACCORDING TO LOCAL TERMINOLOGY (ALL  
QUANTITIES IN THOUSANDS OF METRIC TONS):

	1972	1973	1975(EST.)
WOOD IN ROUGH	32	33	40
(PROBABLY CORRESPONDS TO PILING WOOD AND UTILITY POLE LINES).			
WOOD ROUGHLY SQUARED	7	7	8
ROUGH LUMBER, SAWED, 370	170	170	385
RED AND WHITE.			
PLYWOOD AND BLOCKWOOD	21	24	27

NOTE: 1974 STATISTICS ARE UNDER PREPARATION AND CONSEQUENTLY  
NOT AVAILABLE.

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2. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS, TOTAL VALUE OF WOOD IMPORTS IN EGYPTIAN POUNDS (LE) WAS 21.5 MILLION IN 1972 AND 11.2 MILLION IN 1973. 1975 IMPORTS ARE ESTIMATED AT LE 27 MILLION, NOT INCLUDING INTENDED PURCHASE OF 200 THOUSAND RAILROAD SLEEPERS WORTH APPROXIMATELY LE 6 MILLION TO BE IMPORTED BY THE RAILROAD AUTHORITY. THESE SLEEPERS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE ESTIMATES FOR 1975 IN TABLE ABOVE.

3. IMPORTS PRIMARILY COME FROM SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. OF SAWED ROUGH LUMBER INCLUDED IN TABLE IN PARA 1, 250 THOUSAND OF 385 THOUSAND METRIC TONS TO BE IMPORTED IN 1975 WILL COME UNDER BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS.

4. EGYPTIAN IMPORTERS ARE CURRENTLY PAYING APPROXIMATELY FOLLOWING PRICES FOR EACH OF CATEGORIES OF WOOD LISTED IN THE TABLE I

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PARA 1 AT THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE OF LE 1 EQUALS \$2.55:

TYPE	PRICE IN EGYPTIAN POUNDS
WOOD IN ROUGH	50
WOOD ROUGHLY SQUARED	OA 40
ROUGH LUMBER, SAWED, RED AND WHITE.	60
PLYWOOD AND BLOCKWOOD	85

ABOVE PRICES ARE ABOUT 25 PERCENT BELOW PRICES PAID IN 1974. PRACTICALLY

ALL OF LUMBER IMPORTED IS NOT OF PRIME GRADE. MARKET PRICES PER METRIC TON FIXED BY GE FOR EACH OF FOUR CATEGORIES LISTED ABOVE ARE RESPECTIVELY: LE 140, LE 140, LE 140 AND LE 360. COMPETITIVE POSITION OF US SUPPLIERS WOULD DEPEND PRIMARILY UPON PRICE, TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCING.

LEADING IMPORTERS OF LUMBER AND PLYWOOD PRODUCTS ARE LISTED BELOW:

(A) NASR CO. FOR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS  
28 TALAAT HARB STREET, CAIRO

(B) MISR CO. FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT  
6 ADLI STREET, CAIRO

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(C) EGYPTIAN RAILAORD AUTHORITY  
RAMSIS SQUARE, CAIRO

(D) MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND RECONSTRUCTION  
1, ISMAIL ABAZA STREET, KASR EL AINI STREET, CAIRO.  
EILTS

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